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# HISTORIC TOLEDO



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# By Way of Introduction

**T**HIS book represents the compiling of a series of newspaper advertisements describing the historic background of Toledo. School teachers and pupils and others interested in local history, have followed this series with such interest, that at their request, the brief history is put in this more permanent form. For some of the facts herein contained, we wish to express our appreciation to Nevin O. Winter's History of Northwestern Ohio. Our Public Library is rich in volumes like this for those who desire a more extended knowledge of their city's history.

## The Toledo Savings Bank & Trust Co.

Corner Summit and Jefferson  
Established 1868





A VIEW OF OLD TOLEDO, SPAIN

## Historic Toledo

No. 1

Know Your  
City's History

NO section of the country is richer in historic happenings and associations than Northwestern Ohio.

What could be more appropriate than that her wondrous story should be briefly told by Toledo's original and oldest savings bank.

Just a word, by way of introduction, about Toledo, Spain, after which our city is named. Toledo is one of the oldest cities of Europe, and was long noted for the fine swords made there.

In the Toledo Blade counting room, today, can be seen on display, a fine pair of swords, the ancient Toledo Blades, presented to D. R. Locke, famous former editor of this paper. He was better known to the world as Petroleum V. Nasby, writer of the Nasby Letters, and was one of the original directors of this bank.

In 1908, during the celebration of the Wamba festival, many of the traditions of Old Toledo, Spain, were revived in gorgeous pageantry, in the new and rapidly growing, Toledo, Ohio, U. S. A.

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## Historic Toledo

### No. 2 Indian Days

THIS chapter of our brief Toledo history will take us up to the building of Fort Industry, the first habitation of white men in what is now Toledo.

During the latter part of the 18th century there were about 7000 Indians in Northwestern Ohio. What is now Detroit Avenue was part of an old Indian road, leading from Detroit to Pittsburg.

In this section some of the hottest fighting between the red men and the white took place. Near Toledo are the historic battlegrounds of Fallen Timbers and Turkey Foot Rock, reminders of the defeat of the Indians by American forces under General Wayne, in 1794. These battlegrounds may be seen by anyone visiting the towns of Maumee or Perrysburg.

It was the Indian warfare described above that led to the building of Fort Industry, on the site of which this bank began business 74 years later.

Indian Days are commemorated in the names of some of our Toledo streets, such as Tecumseh, named after the great Indian chieftain of this section.

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TOLEDO IN 1794 - Now the Easterly Corner of Summit and Monroe Sts

## Historic Toledo

### No. 3 Fort Industry

THIS old blockhouse is of particular interest to us in this series of Toledo history talks, for two reasons.

First, because it was the original habitation for white men on the location of what is now Toledo, and second, it was situated on the same spot where, in 1868, this bank began business.

Fort Industry, according to John Gunckel's Early History of the Maumee Valley, was built by General Wayne, in August, 1794, as a stockade against the Indians. It was used afterwards as a trading post, until 1805, and really did not become a fort until 1813, when it was used by General Harrison for the deposit of surplus ammunition, clothing, etc., while en-route to Canada.

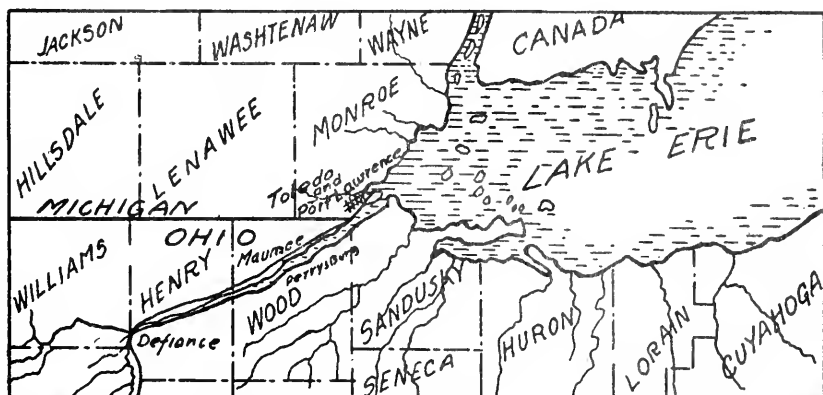
The location of the fort is marked today by the Fort Industry Block, on the northeast corner of Summit and Monroe streets. A well-worn wood tablet on the Monroe street side of the building, tells Fort Industry's history.

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*From a Map Made in 1834, Showing Toledo in Michigan  
Courtesy of Robert B Dakin*

## Historic Toledo

No. 4  
The City  
Founded

**T**OLEDO is the combination of two early settlements, Port Lawrence and Vistula. There were other settlements such as Marengo and Gilead, but these soon gave up the struggle and were absorbed.

Port Lawrence commenced at a point on the river, near what is now Lynn St. and ran directly west, crossing Madison near Ontario. It was located in 1817.

In 1832, a dissatisfied faction withdrew and located a new plat a little further down the river, called Vistula.

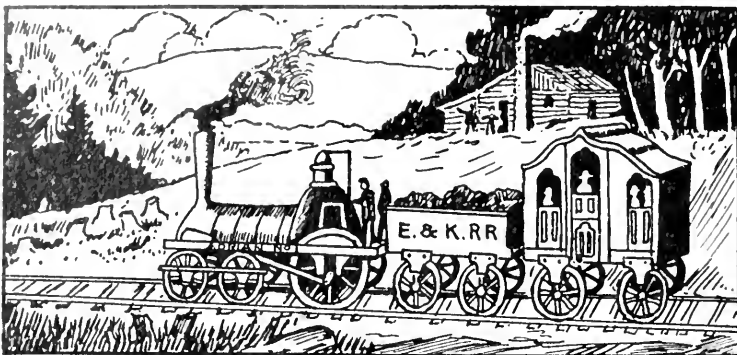
At a public meeting held in 1835, the two rival settlements merged, under the name of Toledo, suggested, it is said, by W. J. Daniels, who had been reading Spanish history.

The map above shows Toledo (or rather Port Lawrence) in 1834, located in Michigan. In 1836, this territory was definitely awarded to Ohio, ending a bitter controversy known as the Toledo War.

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*FIRST RAILROAD IN NORTHWESTERN OHIO 1836  
Erie And Kalamazoo Railway, between Adrian & Toledo*

## Historic Toledo

### No. 5 Early Transportation

**T**OLEDO, one of the greatest railway centers, has always been a pioneer in transportation.

In 1843 the Miami & Erie Canal was opened for navigation. By 1848, 4000 canal boats cleared from Toledo, then a village of two thousand people.

About the time the rival cities joined to form Toledo, in 1836, the first railroad west of the Alleghenies was built here, the Erie and Kalamazoo, which ran from Toledo to Adrian "at a speed," says the Toledo Blade of that day, "of 20 miles an hour."

In 1869, one year after this bank's founding, this line became part of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern. The Wabash line was opened in 1855.

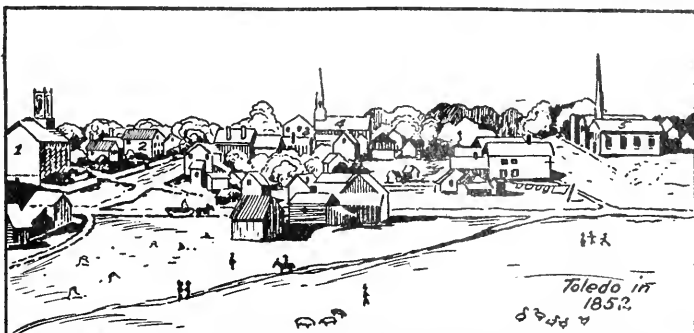
The forerunner of the C. H. & D. was started in 1859, to Dayton; the B. & O. reached here in 1873, and a line to Columbus was completed in 1876.

From those early days down to today, this bank has been a favorite with railroad men.

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1 Trinity Episcopal Church, 2 Old Post Office Site, 3 Boody House, 4 Old First Church, 5 Old St. Paul's M.E. Church. (from an old painting by W.H. Machen.)

(Used by permission of E. A. Machen, owner of copyright)

## Historic Toledo

No. 6  
Pioneer  
Days

**T**OLEDO was incorporated as a city in 1837. It was really only a small village with an uncertain population, not exceeding 1200.

The first mayor was John Berdan, whose descendants are still prominent in the commercial and social life of the city. In 1845 there was elected to the mayor's office a prominent Quaker and Abolitionist, Richard Mott, who was to be 23 years later, the first president of this bank.

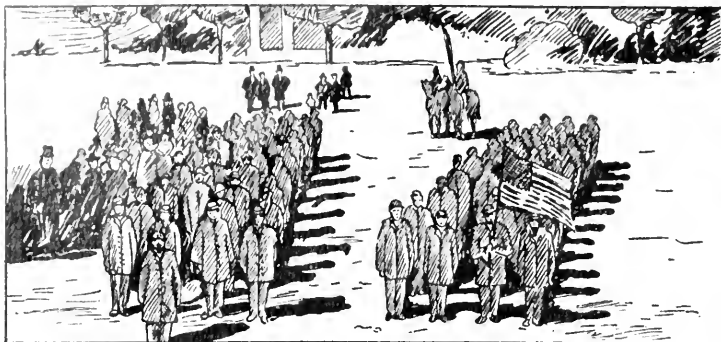
The industrial history of Toledo began during the 40's. The Milburn Wagon Works, to this day one of the city's chief industries, was established in 1847. The predecessors of the wholesale house of Berdan & Company began business in 1836.

By 1853 Toledo had a population of about 8500, and was already an important grain center. Geographically, Toledo was divided into Upper Town, with fine residences on Monroe street, and Lower Town, with the best homes on Lagrange street. The first street railway company, operating horse cars, was organized in 1860.

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## Historic Toledo

No. 7  
Toledo  
in the  
Civil War

FOR 20 years prior to the Civil War anti-slavery sentiment was strong throughout Toledo and Northwestern Ohio. A number of prominent Toledo citizens aided in the escape of negro slaves on their way to Canada.

On April 15, 1861, three days after the assault on Fort Sumter, a call was issued at Toledo for patriots to gather at the Union Depot. Speeches were delivered by J. B. Steedman and H. S. Cummager, and by Morrison R. Waite. Enlistment here progressed rapidly.

By 1862, 2143 men from Lucas County had joined the Union ranks.

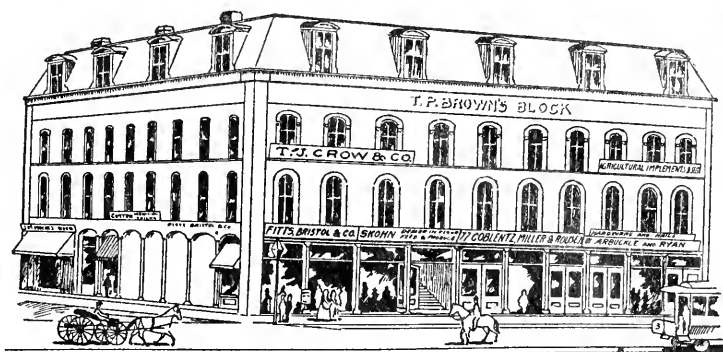
Among the Toledo and Northwestern Ohio men who particularly distinguished themselves during the Civil War were: James B. McPherson, James B. Steedman, John W. Fuller, Charles W. Hill, R. P. Buckland and Isaac R. Sherwood.

It was only three years after the close of the Civil War that this bank began business during a period which very much resembled that following the close of the great World War.

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*Toledo's Principal Business Block  
In The Early '70's*

## Historic Toledo

No. 8

Post-Bellum  
Days

THE years following the Civil War, were busy ones for our city. In 1867, Toledo was made a city of the first class. It then had a population of nearly 30,000. By 1875, it had 50,000.

It was during this period, that many of the men who have brought glory to the city's name, did their best work. D. R. Locke was publishing and editing the Toledo Blade, and giving it a much more than local reputation. Morrison R. Waite, in 1874, was appointed to the seat of Chief Justice of The Supreme Court of The United States.

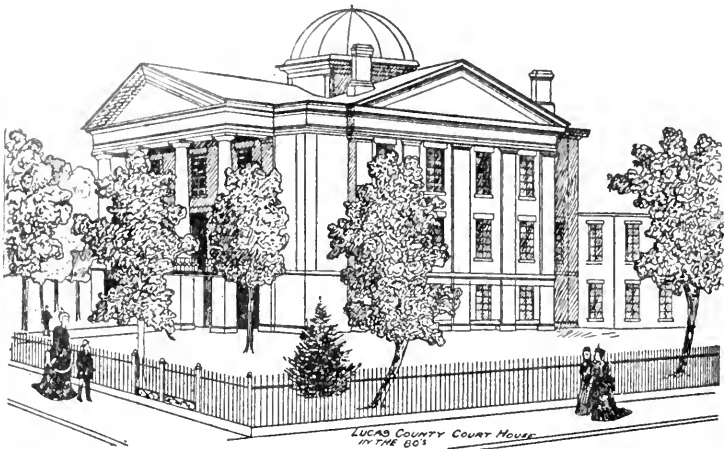
In a business way, too, the city was flourishing. As a grain center, it was second only to Chicago. The panic of 1873 affected Toledo much less than it did many other cities. During this period, many of Toledo's now leading manufacturing, wholesale and retail establishments were founded.

In 1868, a group of prominent citizens, headed by Richard Mott, organized The Toledo Savings Institution. The name was changed, in 1874, to that which this bank bears, to this very day.

## The Toledo Savings Bank & Trust Co.

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## Historic Toledo

No. 9  
The 80's  
and the  
90's

**D**URING the 80's began Toledo's cultural growth.

In 1884 took place the real founding of Toledo University, when the trustees of The Toledo University of Arts and Trades, tendered to the city, the entire university property, which was willed to the institution by Jessup W. Scott in 1872. The Toledo City Council accepted.

The present main Public Library building was opened in 1890. Our beautiful Court House was erected in 1894, the building shown above serving till that time.

During the Spanish-American war Lucas County showed herself creditably again, furnishing companies for the 2nd and 6th regiments, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Colonel (now General) McMaken of this city, commanding the latter.

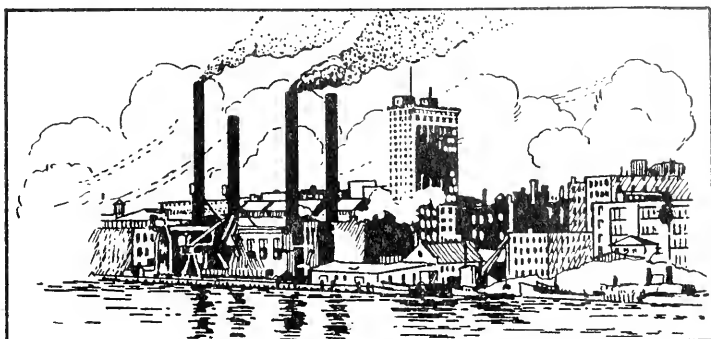
The bicycle industry and the general good times which began with the McKinley administration gave a great impetus to Toledo's growth. From 1890 to 1900 the population increased over 60%.

In 1893 this bank passed the quarter century mark.

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## Historic Toledo

No. 10  
The Past  
20 Years

AN interesting phase of Toledo's political history was the rise of the independent movement, with the election of Samuel M. Jones, as Mayor, on the Independent Ticket, in 1899.

In a business way, the city made splendid strides the most notable event being the coming to Toledo of the Overland Plant, today our leading industry. Other important business events were the erection of the skyscraper Nicholas, Ohio and Second National buildings.

Of equal importance to the city's life, are the world-famous Art Museum, our two fine High Schools, and the new concrete Cherry Street Bridge, all erected during this period.

In 1914 the new City Charter was adopted. The traction question, took a step toward solution, with the formation of the Community Traction Company, during 1921.

Toledo's part in the recent World War, is still sufficiently vivid, to need no comment here.

During this period, in 1918, this bank observed its Fiftieth Anniversary.

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# To Those Who Will Make The Future History of Toledo

**T**O the coming generation, the boys and girls, the young men and women, this final page is especially addressed.

The preceding pages have traced the history of Toledo up to the present day. What her history will be from now on, depends largely upon you. Will you be able to take the place of some of the men mentioned in these pages, who did big things for Toledo, in a civic or commercial way?

Among the qualities possessed by these men, they had one in common, Thrift—the ability to Save, and then Wisely Invest their savings. It was this quality that made it possible for them to accumulate enough to be able to do things for the benefit of the entire city. It was this same quality that made possible the pioneer businesses of the city, to which we have made reference in these pages.

How much Toledo advances in all directions, in the years ahead, depends largely upon whether you can be Thrifty enough to make even bigger things possible. A savings account is the beginning.

## The Toledo Savings Bank and Trust Company

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**Compiled by Maurice Elgutter**



Save Under This Sign